

Message Text

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ACTION EA-*3

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CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 IO-14 ACDA-19 AF-10

DRC-01 OMB-01 SAB-01 FEA-02 INT-08 SCI-06 AID-20

EB-11 CIEP-02 *RSE-00 STR-08 CEA-02 /206 W

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FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 1241

INFO AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT CAIRO

AMCONSUL MUNICH PRIORITY

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NEMUNICH PASS VOA RHODES

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, TC, EG, US

SUBJ: SADAT'S PRESS CONFERENCE IN ABU DHABI

REF: ABU DHABI 0072

SUMMARY:

BEFORE LEAVING ABU DHABI PRESIDENT SADAT HELD TELEVISED PRESS CONFERENCE IN PRESENCE SHAIKH ZAYID IN WHICH HE PRAISED WISE GUIDANCE OF PRESIDENT NIXON AND EFFORTS OF DR. KISSINGER IN WORKING OUT DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT. SADAT SAID HE HAS ASSURANCES FROM KISSINGER THAT MOMENTUM TOWARDS SETTLEMENT WILL CONTINUE AND EXPRESSED HIMSELF POSITIVELY IN FAVOR GOOD RELATIONS WITH US FOLLOWING SETTLEMENT. SADAT STATED THAT DISENGAGEMENT OF FORCES IS MILITARY SUBJECT AND NOT RELATED TO POLITICS. MOST IMMEDIATE PROBLEM IS DISENGAGEMENT ON SYRIAN FRONT TO BE FOLLOWED BY PARTICIPATION

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OF CONFRONTATION STATES AND

PALESTINIAN REPS IN POLITICAL TALKS

WITH ISRAELIS AT GENEVA. SADAT PLEDGED EGYPT WILL NOT ACCEPT RETURN TO NO-PEACE, NO-WAR STATE. SAID HE PLANS ATTEND ISLAMIC SUMMIT

WHICH IMPORTANT CONFERENCE FOR ME CONFLICT IN GENERAL, AND FOR JERUSALEM ISSUE IN PARTICULAR.

1. FOLLOWING HIS PRIVATE MEETING WITH SHAIKH ZAYID, EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT SADAT GAVE TELEVISED PRESS CONFERENCE AT WHICH HE ANSWERED WIDE RANGE OF QUESTIONS CENTERING ON ARAB POLICY IN WAKE-OF-DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT. PRESS CONFERENCE ATTENDED BY BOTH LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL PRESS REPS INCLUDING KGWARD SHEEHAN, OF PARIS BUREAU NY TIMES AND JOHN HARRIS, REPORTING HEARST PUBLICATIONS IN PARIS. OBSERVERS HERE STRUCK BY RELAXED CONFIDENT MANNER OF SADAT AS WELL AS HIS NATURAL ABILITY TO ESTABLISH QUICK RAPPORT WITH PRESS. HIS ABILITY TO FIELD QUESTIONS IN ENGLISH AS COMPETENTLY AS IN ARABIC FAVORABLY COMMENTED UPON. FOLLOWING IS TEXTUAL SUMMARY OF KEY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS PROVIDED BY SHEEHAN OF NYT.

Q: WHAT ARE YOUR EXPECTATIONS FOR NEXT STEP AFTER DISENGAGEMENT OF FORCES?

A. WE MUST DISENGAGE ON SYRIAN FRONT IMMEDIATELY. I HAVE COMMITTED MYSELF TO THIS AND KISSINGER HAS COMMITTED HIMSELF IN NAME US. THIS IS VITAL MATTER FOR US. DISENGAGEMENT IS A MILITARY MATTER NOT A POLITICAL MATTER. AFTER DISENGAGEMENT, NEXT STEP WILL BE PARTICIPATION OF JORDAN, SYRIA AND THE PALESTINIANS (AT GENEVA).

Q* WHAT IS EXTENT OF COORDINATION BETWEEN COORDINATION COUNTRIES* AND THE PALESTINIAN COMMANDOS AFTER SIGNING OF DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT?

A. *ON FRIDAY, I MET ARAFAT. WE ACHIEVED COMPLETE COORDINATION AND UNDERSTANDING. ON SATURDAY, I VISITED SYRIA AND COORDINATION THERE IS ALSO COMPLETE. NOW WE AND OUR OTHER BROTHERS MUST COMPLETE THE QUESTION OF COORDINATION, AND JORDAN MUST TELL US IT WILL AGREE TO PARTICIPATION OF PALESTINIANS AS A PALESTINIAN DELEGATION (AT GENEVA), AND AFTER THAT, EVERYTHING IS EASY.

Q. ARE YOU INTENDING PARTICIPATE IN ISLAMIC SUMMIT CONFERENCE TO UNCLASSIFIED

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BE HELD IN LAHORE AND WHAT IS YOUR VIEWPOINT ABOUT THIS CONF?

A. I HAVE GREAT PLANS TO PARTICIPATE WITH MY ISLAMIC BROTHERS IN THIS CONF, WHICH IS IMPORTANT FOR OUR COORDINATION, ESPECIALLY ON THE QUESTION OF JERUSALEM. WE ATTACH GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THIS CONFERENCE WHICH WILL HAVE IMPORTANT CONSEQUENCES.

Q. FROM YOUR NEGOTIATIONS WITH DR. KISSINGER ABOUT THE

DISENGAGEMENT OF FORCES, DO YOU THINK THE US WILL FULFILL ITS PROMISE CALLING FOR ISRAELI'S WITHDRAWAL FROM THE ARAB OCCUPIED LANDS?

A. UNTIL THIS MOMENT, I CAN SAY THAT DR. KISSINGER HAS BEEN DOING HIS BEST. AS I SAID ON FRIDAY, THROUGH THE WISE GUIDANCE OF MR. NIXON, WE HAVE UP TO THIS MOMENT ACHIEVED PROGRESS. I HOPE, I MORE THAN HOPE, I ASK, THAT THESE EFFORTS WILL CONTINUE UNTIL WE REACH A FINAL SETTLEMENT. I HAVE RECEIVED ASSURANCES FROM KISSINGER. UNTIL THIS MOMENT, THE SITUATION WITH RESPECT TO THE US IS VERY ENCOURAGING AND*LET US HOPE THE PROGRESS WILL CONTINUE.

Q. WILL THE ARAB OIL EXPORT BAN CONTINUE OR WILL IT BE LIFTED DUE TO THE PROGRESS ACHIEVED.

A. IT IS NOT UP TO ME TO DECIDE THIS, BUT UP TO MY BROTHERS, THE OIL PRODUCERS.

Q. DO YOU THINK THAT YOUR RELATIONS WITH THE US WILL IMPROVE?

A. CERTAINLY*, WE HAVE NOTHING AGAINST THE US, I HAD ALWAYS SAID THAT EXCEPT FOR THIS PROBLEM AND THE ALIGNMENT OF THE US WITH ISRAEL AT CERTAIN MOMENTS OUR RELATIONS WITH THE US SHOULD BE EXCELLENT. WHEN THE US TAKES A NEUTRAL STAND AND JUST POINT OF VIEW, WE HAVE NOTHING AGAINST THEM.

Q. WHAT ARE THE CHANCES FOR SUCCESS OF PRESENT EFFORTS FOR DISENGAGEMENT OF FORCES ON THE SYRIAN FRONT?

A. FIRST, I AM COMMITTED TO DISENGAGEMENT FROM SYRIA AS WELL:AS FROM EGYPT. WE ARE ONE IN THIS. THERE IS GRE*T CHANCE FOR SUCCESS, IN FACT A NECESSITY AND AN INEVITABILITY
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OF SUCCESS. WE WILL ACCEPT NOTHING LESS.

Q. WHEN WILL ISRAEL WITHDRAW COMPLETELY FROM THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES?

A. THIS DEPENDS ON COMING ROUND OF TALKS IN GENEVA. WHAT WE ARE TALKING ABOUT NOW IS ONLY A CONFIRMATION OF THE CEASEFIRE AND THIS IS A MILITARY ASPECT. GOING BACK TO THEM*QCT 22 LINES, OR WHAT IS CALLED THE DISENGAGEMENT OF FORCES ON THE EGYPTIAN AND SYRIAN FRONTS, IS A MIL ASPECT AND IT IS THE CEASEFIRE. SOLVING PROBLEM ITSELF WILL BE THE WORK OF GENEVA CONF.

Q. ARE THERE SECRET CLAUSES IN THE DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT?

A. THIS IS A REGRETABLE BUSIN

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